

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 1~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane from a
distal end of the stem to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook
for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the
heads;

wherein a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to
the sheet-form base, is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured
perpendicular to the sheet-form base; and

wherein each fastener element has an overall length between opposite extents of the heads, measured parallel to the base, of at least 1.8 times the overall height of the fastener element.

4-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 1~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane from a distal end of the stem to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base; and

wherein the tips extend toward the base.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 1~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and

two heads extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane from a distal end of the stem to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base; and

wherein the lower surfaces of the heads are arched.

12-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 16~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane from a distal end of the stem to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is less than 60 percent of an overall height of the fastener element, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base;

wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem; and

wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.

18-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 27~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a ratio of an overall height of at least one of the heads, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the tip to an uppermost extent of the head, to a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is greater than 0.7; and

wherein each fastener element has an overall length between opposite extents of the heads, measured parallel to the base, of at least 1.8 times an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

29-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 27~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite
directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface
forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a
well between the heads;

wherein a ratio of an overall height of at least one of the heads, measured perpendicular
to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the tip to an uppermost extent of the head, to a
height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form
base, is greater than 0.7; and

wherein the tips extend toward the base.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 36~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite
directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface
forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a
well between the heads;

wherein a ratio of an overall height of at least one of the heads, measured perpendicular
to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the tip to an uppermost extent of the head, to a
height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form
base, is greater than 0.7;

wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem; and

wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.

38-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 48~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite
directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface
forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a
well between the heads;

wherein a ratio of an overall length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the
sheet-form base in the engagement plane between opposite extents of the heads, to a height of a
lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is greater
than 2.5; and

wherein the overall length of the fastener element is at least 1.8 times an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 48~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite
directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface

forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a ratio of an overall length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in the engagement plane between opposite extents of the heads, to a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is greater than 2.5; and

wherein a ratio of an overall height of each crook, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip to an uppermost extent of the crook, to an entrance height measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base below a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip, is greater than 0.6.

51-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 54~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising;

a stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein a ratio of an overall length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in the engagement plane between opposite extents of the heads, to a height of a lowermost extent of the well, measured from and perpendicular to the sheet-form base, is greater than 2.5;

wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem; and

wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.

56-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 61~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a molded stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein each fastener element has a mold release factor, defined as a ratio of a difference between a minimum solid length of the stem, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view, and a maximum solid length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form

base in side view above an elevation corresponding to the minimum solid length, to the minimum solid length of the stem, of less than 0.1; and

wherein the overall length of the fastener element is at least 1.8 times an overall height of the fastener element, measured from and perpendicular to the base.

64. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 61~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a molded stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a well between the heads;

wherein each fastener element has a mold release factor, defined as a ratio of a difference between a minimum solid length of the stem, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view, and a maximum solid length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side view above an elevation corresponding to the minimum solid length, to the minimum solid length of the stem, of less than 0.1; and

wherein a ratio of an overall height of each crook, measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base from a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip to an uppermost extent of the crook,

to an entrance height measured perpendicular to the sheet-form base below a lowermost extent of the corresponding tip, is greater than 0.6.

65-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) ~~The touch fastener component of claim 67~~ A touch fastener component having a sheet-form base and an array of fastener elements, each fastener element comprising:

a molded stem extending outwardly from and integrally with the sheet-form base, and
two heads disposed at a distal end of the stem and extending in essentially opposite
directions in an engagement plane to corresponding tips, each head having a lower surface
forming a crook for retaining loops, the fastener element having an upper surface that defines a
well between the heads;

wherein each fastener element has a mold release factor, defined as a ratio of a difference
between a minimum solid length of the stem, measured parallel to the sheet-form base in side
view, and a maximum solid length of the fastener element, measured parallel to the sheet-form
base in side view above an elevation corresponding to the minimum solid length, to the
minimum solid length of the stem, of less than 0.1;

wherein the crooks overhang surfaces of the stem; and

wherein the crooks overhang stem surfaces that extend at an inclination angle of between about 20 and 30 degrees with respect to a normal to the base.

Applicant : Mark A. Clarner
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Page : 13 of 14

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69-79. (Canceled)